City of St. Alban.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1937,

BY

RICHARD R. K. PATON,

M.B., CH.B. GLASGOW, D.P.H. CAMBRIDGE,

Medical Officer of Health, Etc., Etc.

ALSO

Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector, and of the Veterinary Inspector.

ST. ALBANS:

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Officers of the Council engaged in Health Work.

Town Clerk (whole time) ...Mr. W. G. Marshall.

City Solicitor (part time) ... Mr. G. W. Debenham.

Surveyor and Engineer (whole time)
Mr. F. T. Negus,
M. INST. MUN. AND C.E.

Deputy Surveyor (whole time) ...Mr. F. A. Moore,
M. INST. MUN. AND C.E.

*Medical Officer of Health (whole time)
Dr. R. R. K. Paton,
M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Public Analyst (part time) ...Mr. C. W. McHugo, F.I.C.

*Chief Sanitary Inspector (whole time)
Mr. A. S. Macara, M.S.I.A.

*Sanitary Inspector (whole time)
Mr. R. E. C. Goddard, M.S.I.A.

Veterinary Inspector (part time) Mr. G. Elmes, F.R.C.V.S.

Manager Sewage Disposal Works (whole time)
Mr. A. Eade, M.R.I.P.H., M.I.S.P.

*Contribution made to Salary from Exchequer Grants.

To the Mayor and Corporation of the St. City of Alban.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you the Report for the year 1937, of the Medical Officer of Health for the City of St. Alban.

General Statistics.

Area (acres), 5,129.

Population (at Census of 1931), 28,625 (13,070 males and 15,555 females).

Estimated Resident Population (mid-year) 35,840.

Number of inhabitated houses, 10,017.

Number of new houses erected, 294.

Rateable Value, £349,334.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £1,360.

The following table gives the Vital Statistics for England and Wales, etc., for the year 1937, and although the Birth rate is low it is to be remembered that the age and sex distribution of the population favours a low Birth rate.

The Infantile Mortality rate is below that of comparable towns.

	Birth Rate per 1000 Population.	Death Rate per 1000 Population.	Deaths under One Year per 1000 Births.
England and Wales	14·9	12·4	58
125 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	14·9	12·5	62
148 Smaller Towns ... ... (1931 Census Populations 25,000 to 50,000).	15·3	11·9	55
London	13·3	12·3	60
St. Albans City	**14.7**	**10·1**	**39**

Table of Vital Statistics for whole District, shewing each Parish separately.

Ward.	Population as given by Registrar General.	Births.			Birth Rate per 1000 Population.	Deaths.			Death Rate per 1000 Population.	Infant Deaths.			Infant Death Rate per 1000 Nett Births.
		M	F	Totals		M	F	Totals		M	F	Totals	
North Ward	*10,670	134	130	264	...	66	72	138	...	...	...	...	...
South Ward.... ...	*14,770	56	60	116	...	74	77	151	...	...	...	...	...
East Ward	*10,400	70	78	148	...	50	59	109	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	35,840	260	268	528	14·7	190	208	398	11·1	10	11	21	39
Rates for year.													
1936 ...					14· 5				10· 2				44
1935 ...					13· 4				10· 4				32
1934 ...					13. 3				10· 9				48
1933 ...					12· 9				11· 7				23
1932 ...					13· 0				11· 0				29

* The Ward Populations are approximate only.

Of the 528 Births, 31 were Illegitimate (13 males and 18 females).
Of the 21 Infant Deaths under one year of age, 2 were Illegitimate.

Mortality Table for Year 1937.

Causes of Death.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever ...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...
Diphtheria	...	...	...
Influenza	9	13	22
Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	15	7	22
Other Tuberculous Diseases... ..	3	2	5
Syphilis	...	...	...
General Paralysis of the Insane, tabes dorsalis	...	...	...
Cancer, Malignant Disease	24	40	64
Diabetes...	2	8	10
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	3	11	14
Heart Disease	56	60	116
Aneurysm	1	...	1
Other Circulatory Diseases	9	5	14
Bronchitis	8	4	12
Pneumonia (all forms)	5	9	14
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	2	3
Peptic Ulcer	2	1	3
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years) ...	1	...	1
Appendicitis	2	...	2
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	...	1
Other Diseases of Liver, etc... ..	...	5	5
Other Digestive Diseases	4	2	6
Acute and Chronic Nephritis ...	4	2	6
Puerperal Sepsis	...	1	1
Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	...
Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth	9	11	20
Senility	1	3	4
Suicide	3	4	7
Other Deaths from Violence... ...	9	6	15
Other Defined Diseases	18	12	30
Causes ill-defined or unknown ...	...	...	...
All Causes	190	208	398

Percentage of Deaths in Public Institutions, 34.

Deaths in Childbirth: Sepsis 1, Other Causes 0.

Still Births, Legitimate: 9 Males, 7 Females.

Illegitimate: 1 Male, 2 Females.

Infant Mortality during the Year 1937.

Causes of Death.	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 weeks & under 3 months.	3 months & under 6 months.	6 months & under 9 months.	9 months & under 12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
Small Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abdominal Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
Meningitis (*not Tuberculous*) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Convulsions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Laryngitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
Gastritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rickets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suffocation, overlying	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Injury at Birth	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Atelectasis	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
Congenital Malformations ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Premature Birth	6	2	...	...	8	1	...	...	...	9
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	1	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	..	2
Other Causes	3	...	2	...	5	...	1	...	...	6
Total	13	3	2	...	18	2	1	...	...	21

Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

Diseases.	North Ward.	South Ward.	East Ward.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths.
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	4	3	1	8	8	...
Scarlet Fever	11	13	7	31	29	...
Pneumonia	4	1	7	12	...	14
Erysipelas	...	2	...	2	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	...	1	...	1	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	7	4	2	13	...	...
Enterica	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	1	1	1	3	...	...
Puerperal Fever	...	2	2	4	..	1
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	1	...	...	1	1	...
Total	28	27	20	75	38	15

Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria.

There has been no epidemic this year of any severity.

Tuberculosis.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	1	1	1	1	...	...	2	...
5	2	1	1	1	...	...	1	1
10	1	1	1	1	...	...	...	...
15	3	1	1	...	...	...	...	1
20	3	1	...	...	2	1	...	...
25	3	4	...	1	3	2	...	...
35	5	4	...	1	3	2	...	...
45	5	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
55	2	...	...	...	5	2	...	...
65	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	...
Totals ...	25	16	4	5	15	7	3	2

Of the 22 deaths through Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 29 were previously notified cases. Two Non-Pulmonary cases were not previously notified.

No action has been taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

No action has been taken under the Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.

Preventive Measures.

At the Sisters' Hospital there is a Washington-Lyon Steam Disinfector where bedding and clothes may be disinfected. This is always done in cases of Scarlet Fever, Small-pox, etc., and frequently done after such illnesses as Consumption and Cancer. This work is done by the porter at the Hospital.

Formaldehyde is the disinfectant almost universally used in this District. This work is done by the Sanitary Inspectors.

Arrangements are made by this Council with the Herts County Council Laboratory, the Clinical Research Association, and the Counties Public Health Laboratories for examinations to be made at the expense of this Council.

I have received during the year 177 reports from them as follows :—

One hundred and sixty-one on Swabs, examined for Klebs Loeffler Bacilli for Diphtheria, 8 of which were positive.

Seven for Haemolytic Streptococci, of which 2 were positive.

Nine on Sputa examined for Tubercle Bacilli, of which 2 were positive.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is, in all suitable cases, supplied at the expense of this Council.

Vaccination.

The following figures are given for the twelve months ending June 30th, 1937, and have been supplied to me by Mr. Seabrook, the Vaccination Officer :—

During this period there were 573 children born in the City, 16 of whom died in infancy without being vaccinated.

Of the remaining 557 only 156 have been vaccinated, that is, 28 per cent.

Forty-three have gone away from the District before being vaccinated and in 8 cases vaccination has been postponed.

350 Conscientious Objection Certificates were granted.

No primary vaccinations or re-vaccinations have been performed under the Small Pox (Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

Hospitals, Nursing arrangements and other Institutions available for the District.

(1) **St. Albans and Mid Herts Hospital and Dispensary** Church Crescent, St. Albans. *Matron* : Miss D. Mason.

Supported by Endowments, Voluntary Contributions, Fees from or in respect of Patients.

A General Hospital for Accidents, Medical and Surgical Cases. Contains an Operating Theatre and X-Ray Plants.

Accommodation about 50 beds.

Staff : Eight Hon. Medical Officers besides Hon. Consulting Surgeons, Hon. Dental Surgeon, Hon. Radioligist, Hon. Psychiatrist, and a Resident House Surgeon.

Infectious Diseases Hospital.

Matron: Miss Banner, St. Albans Joint Hospital, St. Albans.

Medical Superintendent: Dr. R. R. K. Paton (non-resident).

St. Albans Joint Hospital, Union Lane, St. Albans, which consists of :—

1. Administration Block.
2. Scarlet Fever Block (accommodation 12 beds), over which are 2 Wards of 2 beds each reserved for Cerebro-spinal Fever.
3. Diphtheria Block (accommodation 11 beds).

There is a Washing-Lyon Disinfector.

A Motor Ambulance is kept at the Hospital.

Porter: Mr. C. R. Dye.

The Public Assistance Institution and Infirmary Oster House, St. Albans. Property of the Hertfordshire County Council, Management Committee: St. Albans Guardians Committee.

Area served: City of St. Alban, Urban District of Harpenden, Rural District of St. Albans, comprising Parishes of St. Stephen, St. Michael, St. Peter Rural, Redbourn, Sandridge, Wheathampstead and Harpenden Rural.

Hospital accommodation 192 beds, including a modern Maternity Unit of 14 beds and Sick Children's Block of 25 beds. There is also a T.B. Verandah of 4 beds, and there are three small side wards in the Infirmary available for isolation.

There is a modern Operating Theatre and Dispensary.

Medical Officer (non-resident): Dr. J. W. Hope Simpson, M.D., B.Ch., M.R.C.S., M.R.C.P.

Assistant Medical Officer (non-resident): Dr. H. P. Jameson, M.D., M.R.C.P.

Resident House Surgeon: Dr. Vivian J. Downie, M.B., Ch.B.

The County Council also retain a Staff of Consultant Specialists who periodically visit the Infirmary.

Master: Mr. E. S. Green.

Matron and Superintendent Nurse: Mrs. L. J. Green, with a Staff of twelve trained Nurses, twenty-one assistant Nurses, three Male Nurses, and six trainee Nurses.

Other accommodation for aged persons, etc.: 120 beds.

(4) **The St. Albans District Nursing Association,** Bricket House, St. Albans. *Superintendent*: Miss E. S. King.

Supported by Voluntary Subscriptions, Grants from the County Council and other Public Bodies, and profits from the Nursing Home, for which purpose part of the building known as Bricket House is reserved.

This Association, which is affiliated to the Herts County Nursing Association and Queen's Institute of District Nursing, provides for the General and Midwifery Nursing of the Sick Poor in their own homes, throughout the City and immediate neighbourhood.

Staff: Miss King (Superintendent), Miss Comber (Assistant Superintendent), three Midwives, four District Nurses, one Health Visitor and one Nurse for Schools, Clinics, etc.

Last year 230 Maternity Cases were nursed, to which some 4,905 visits were paid, and 1061 General Cases were nursed, to which some 14,169 visits were paid and 1,940 casual visits.

1,610 Ante-Natal visits were also paid.

This Association also undertakes the Health Visiting, School Nursing, &c., for the County Council.

The following is a record of the work of the Health Visitor and Queen's Nurses, besides weekly attendances at the School Dental Clinic, Child Welfare Centre, Tuberculosis Dispensary, and Ante-Natal Clinic.

8,346 Home visits to children.

256 visits to schools.

303 Minor Ailments with 759 visits.

13,304 children inspected for Medical and Dental Defects, and also cleanliness.

555 visits paid to parents.

The County Council Maternity and Child Welfare Centre and School Dental Clinic is held at Wellington Court (also the property of the Association) which is adjacent to Bricket House.

The School Dental Clinic is held every Monday morning, alternate Monday afternoons, every Friday afternoon, and third Friday mornings.

Attendances 1666.

Defects remedied 953.

(5) **Herts County Nursing Association, Massage and Orthopædic Centre,** Bricket House, St. Albans.

Masseuse in Charge: Miss Warington.

Visiting Orthopædic Surgeon: Mr. S. L. Higgs.

Supported by contributions from the British Red Cross Society, Fees from the Ministry of Pensions for Ex-service Men, and from the County Council for School Children and Infants from the Welfare Centre. Also by nominal fees paid by civilian patients.

(6) **Tuberculosis Dispensary,** 79, Victoria Street, St. Albans.

An Institution belonging to the County Council.

Assistant County Tuberculosis Officer: Dr. E. C. Sparrow.

Open every week on Thursday afternoons. First Wednesday afternoon in month for children.

(7) **Ambulance.** There are two Motor Ambulances in the City, the property of the St. Albans Town Council.

The Ambulances are kept at the Fire Station, St. Albans, and are in charge of the Chief Constable (Telephone 18).

They are available for the use of St. Albans and District at a fixed charge of 1/- per mile. Minimum 5/-

Public Elementary Schools.

There are 14 Public Elementary Schools in the City, of which 4 are Church of England Schools, 1 is a Roman Catholic School and 9 are County Council Schools.

The heating of many of these schools leaves much to be desired.

Free milk was recommended for some 400 children attending these schools.

The co-operation given by the Inspector of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children has been most valuable during the year.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centre (Herts County Council) St. Albans.

This Centre has been held regularly on Wednesday afternoons throughout the year in the premises at Wellington Court The Ante-Natal Clinic is held every Tuesday in each month from 10 to 12 a.m.

The object of the work has been, as heretofore, the improvement and maintenance of the health and general nutrition of the children.

All cases of illness are referred to their own doctor or to a hospital for treatment.

The actual numbers at the Centre in 1937 are as follows:

Number on register :—

Expectant mothers, 144.

Children (under 5), 724.

Number of attendances :—

Expectant mothers (consultation with doctor) 534.

Children seen by doctor, 1,046.

4,303 attendances.

Average weekly attendance, 85 children.

Number of deaths among these children, 2.

Number of children who have been referred to the Orthopædic Clinic, 17.

Fifty-four mothers and 70 children were referred to the Dental Clinic.

General Sanitation.

Water Supply.—The City receives its water supply from the St. Albans Water Company.

The water, though hard, is of a very high degree of purity, and in my opinion an exceedingly wholesome supply.

The hardness is mainly temporary; the total hardness is 30 parts per 100,000 of which 25 is temporary. I know of no method at present by which this water could be efficiently softened except at great expense.

Sewerage.—All the houses in St. Albans are connected with the main sewer, with the exception of the older houses in Fleetville and in the added areas, which are still served by dumb wells. There are also 120 in the added areas which have pail closets, and these are cleared twice weekly.

Factories and Workshops.

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.

Premises. (1)	Number of Inspections. (2)	Number of Written Notices. (3)	Number of Prosecutions (4)
Factories ... ... (including Factory Laundries)	103	3	...
Workshops ... ... (including Workshop Laundries)	124	2	...
Workplaces ... ... (other than Outworkers' premises) Verbal Notices 23	42	5	...
Total ...	269	10	...

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects. Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	Number of Prosecutions. (5)
*Nuisances under the Public Health Acts**				
Want of cleanliness	39	39	...	...
Want of ventilation	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...
Want of drainage of floors ...	2	2	...	...
Other nuisances	13	13	...	...
Sanitary Accommodation — insufficient ...	1	1	...	-
Sanitary Accommodation — unsuitable or defective	20	20	...	...
Sanitary Accommodation — not separate for sexes	...	...	...	...
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts:				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)	...	...	...	...
Other offences ... ... (Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921).	...	...	...	...
Total ..	75	75	...	...

*Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act.

For particulars see Report of Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Bakehouses.

There are no wholesale bakehouses in the City. Under the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, no underground bakehouse must be used after January 1st, 1904, without the written permission of the Sanitary Authority. There are 2 such underground bakehouses in the City, both of which have received the necessary permission of the Council.

Slaughterhouses.

There are 11 slaughter houses in the City.

In two cases the slaughter house, though a slaughter house within the definition of the Public Health Act, 1875, is nothing more than a yard, and a few of them, owing to their position, are unsuitable for the purpose of slaughtering, but on account of their being in existence previous to the year 1875, this Corporation has no power to deal with them unless they are a nuisance under the Public Health Act, 1875.

The Veterinary Inspector has been appointed Meat Inspector under the Public Health Meat Regulations, and visits the slaughter-houses at their appointed time of slaughtering, and when notified of special cases of slaughtering.

There is no public abattoir in the City.

Housing.

STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during year :—

(*a*) Total (including numbers given separately under (*b*).

(i.) By the Local Authority .. ... *Nil*

(ii.) By other Local Authorities ... ... *Nil*

(iii). By other bodies and persons 294

(*b*) With State assistance under the Housing Acts:

(i.) By the Local Authority :

(*a*) For the purpose of Part II. of the Act of 1925 ... ... *Nil*

(*b*) For the purpose of Part III. of the Act of 1925 ... ... *Nil*

(*c*) For other purposes ... ... *Nil*

(ii.) By other bodies or persons ... ... *Nil*

1. *Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :—*

(1) (*a*) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 1485

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 3138

(2) (*a*) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 228

(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose 396

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ... *nil*

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 920

2. *Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal Notices* :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers *903

3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year* :—

A.—Proceedings under Sections 17, 18, and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... *Nil*

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(*a*) by owners ... ... *Nil*

(*b*) by Local Authority in default of owners ... *Nil*

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 2

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects remedied after service of formal notices :—

(*a*) by owners 2

(*b*) by Local Authority in default of owners ... *Nil*

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ... *Nil*

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ... *Nil*

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ... *Nil*

---

*This figure includes 12 houses inspected in 1936.

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ... *Nil*

E.—Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... *Nil*

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—

(*a*) by owners ... ... *Nil*

(*b*) by Local Authority in default of owners ... *Nil*

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close *Nil*

F.—Proceedings under Sections 11, 14, and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ... *Nil*

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit ... ... *Nil*

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ... *Nil*

(4) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ... *Nil*

Adoptive Acts.

The following Acts or parts of Acts have been adopted in the City:—

	Adopted by St. Albans City Council.
The Public Libraries Acts.	3rd May, 1878.
The Baths and Wash-houses Acts,	15th May, 1889.

The Infectious Diseases Notification Act, 1889.	4th February, 1890.
The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, with the exception of Part IV.	9th December, 1890.
The Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890.	3rd February, 1891.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907.

Part II., sections 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 49, 50, and 51 comprised in Part III. Part IV. Part V. Part VI. Sections 92, 93, and 95 comprised in Part X.	Came into operation in the City of St. Alban on 9th January, 1912, by Order of the Local Government Board, dated 21st November, 1911.
Sections 79, 81 and 86 comprised in Part VII. Part VIII.	Declared to be in force in the City of St. Alban by Order of the Home Secretary, dated 29th March, 1911.
Section 85 comprised in Part VII.	Declared to be in force in the City of St. Alban by Order of the Home Secretary, dated 10th February, 1915.

The Public Health Act, 1925.

Parts II. to V. (both inclusive).	Came into operation 1st March, 1926.

Byelaws and Regulations.

New Streets and Buildings	14th April, 1926. 11th June, 1929.
Nuisances	1st August, 1893.
Slaughter Houses	4th May, 1926.
Common Lodging Houses	7th May, 1880.
Good Rule and Government	31st January, 1911. 10th February, 1931. 9th November, 1931. 4th October, 1932.
Public Conveniences	17th July, 1923.
Regulation of Advertisements	1st April, 1930.
Registries for Female Domestic Servants	1st January, 1930.
Street Traffic Regulations	4th April, 1933.

Appended are the reports of the Chief Sanitary Inspector and Veterinary Inspector. To them and to my other fellow-officers I wish to offer my sincere thanks for their kindly co-operation in the production of this report.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

RICHARD PATON,

M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector for the City of St. Alban for the Year 1937.

To the Mayor and Corporation of the City of St. Alban.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Report on the work carried out during the year 1937.

Sanitary Inspections.

The following is a summary of inspections made during the year :—

Dwelling-houses under Public Health or Housing Acts	1485
Dwelling-houses under Housing Acts	228
Corporation Housing Estates	64
Inquiry into complaints received	126
Disinfection of houses after Infectious Diseases ...	98
Disinfection of Schools and Public Buildings ...	4
Common Lodging Houses	19
Factories	103
Workshops and Workplaces	166
Bakehouses	108
Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops	147
Butchers' Shops and Slaughterhouses	151
Food stalls in Market, etc.	384
Visits *re* Merchandise Marks Acts	121
Offensive Trades (including Fried Fish premises) ...	72
Other premises where food is prepared	75
Cinemas, Public Halls, etc.	22
Rat infestation	85
Animals so kept as to be a nuisance	6
Stable premises	10
Offensive accumulations	16
Smoke Observations	14
Other inspections, including works in progress ...	2653
	6157

Defects Remedied and Sanitary Improvements Carried Out.

The defects and nuisances remedied or abated were 3467, and 564 preliminary notices were served in connection therewith.

In addition to these notices the abatement of insanitary conditions is effected by an interview with those directly concerned.

The following summary gives particulars of work carried out as a result of inspections:—

Houses inspected	1485
Preliminary Notices served	564
Statutory Notices served	2
Walls, damp and defective, remedied	211
Roofs, spoutings and downpipes repaired	494
Floors, walls and ceilings repaired	482
Houses cleansed	27
Walls and ceilings cleansed	233
Windows and sash cords repaired	390
Windows made to open	6
W.C.'s repaired	101
Cisterns and flushing apparatus repaired	143
Drains repaired and unstopped	135
Ventilating and waste pipes repaired	28
Sinks and water supply provided	65
Coppers and copper fireplaces repaired	56
Grates or stoves remedied	73
Dustbins, dust receptacles, defective, remedied	197
Yards, paving repaired	71
Miscellaneous	71
Cesspools emptied	683
Samples of water taken from wells	1

Disinfection, etc.

Following the removal of patients to the Isolation Hospital, disinfection of rooms, bedding and clothing is carried out as a matter of routine. The infected bedding and clothing is removed to the St. Albans Joint Hospital for steam disinfection, whilst the rooms are fumigated with formalin.

Similar disinfection, free of charge, is also carried out in connection with Tuberculosis and Cancer.

Fifty-nine cases of notifiable infectious diseases were inquired into and the houses or rooms connected therewith fumigated, and thirty-nine houses in connection with Tuberculosis and Cancer. In addition, fumigation was also carried out at four schools and public buildings in the City.

Fluid disinfectant, in half-pint tins, is distributed free for home use in connection with infectious diseases.

Disinfection, at a charge, is also carried out in connection with illnesses other than the above.

Disinfestation.

Twenty-five complaints of bed-bug infestation were received during the year.

Landlords and tenants are advised as to the means of eradicating the pest, and an efficient " Insecticide " is provided for spraying walls, floors, etc. In badly affected property superficial woodwork is removed, wall paper stripped, and broken and defective plaster disloged before the spraying is commenced.

No action is taken with regard to furniture, bedding, etc., of tenants taking possession of Council houses.

Public Cleansing.

(*a*) *Cesspools.*

A large number of houses in the added areas are served by cesspools, as are also some of the older houses in the "Fleetville" area.

Prior to the 1st April, 1937, a charge of 15/- for the first load, and 7/6 for each additional load, was made for the service of emptying. Since that date, however, no charge has been made where no sewer is available.

During the year six hundred and eighty-three cesspools received attention, and an amount of £140 was received for this service.

Sewerage is being proceeded with in the added areas, and work in some of the districts is already complete.

(*b*) *Pail Closets.*

About one hundred and twenty houses in the added areas have pail closets, and these are emptied twice weekly.

Corporation Housing Estates.

Sixty-four inspections were made of houses on the Corporation Housing Estates as to general conditions and cleansing.

Reports were sent to the City Surveyor, and repairs and decorations have been carried out where required.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

During the year eighty-five visits were made to premises in respect of complaints received. These visits were made in conjunction with Mr. J. Dubbin, the County Rat Officer. Advice was given as to the best means of eradicating the pests, and also with a view to prevention, involving repairs of premises affected.

Factories and Workshops.

The inspection of these has been well maintained during the year, and included visits to workshops, domestic workshops, workplaces, outworkers' premises, laundries and bakehouses. Generally speaking, their condition as regards sanitary accommodation, ventilation, cleanliness and other matters of a hygienic matter was satisfactory.

During the year two notifications were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories relating to contraventions of the Factory and Workshop Act, as follows :—

Insufficient sanitary accommodation.

Sanitary convenience opened directly into a workroom.

These were subsequently rectified and H.M. Inspector duly informed.

Outworkers.

One list of outworkers was received from the occupiers of factories and workshops during the year, and five from other authorities.

No cases of infectious disease occurred in the homes of these outworkers.

Shops' Act.

During the year inspections were made of shops with regard to the sanitary accommodation and washing facilities, and with regard to the heating arrangements available.

In a few cases necessary action was taken to bring the shops into conformity with Section 10 of the Shops' Act, 1934.

Common Lodging Houses.

At the end of the year there were four Common Lodging Houses in the City. These were visited periodically and found to be in good condition.

No new houses were registered during the year and the use of one was discontinued.

Offensive Trades.

Three classes of Offensive Trades are carried on in the City, namely, Marine Store Dealer, Edible Fat Refiner, and Frying of Fish.

The trade of fish frying is carried on at ten establishments, that of rag and bone merchant at two establishments, and fat refining at one establishment.

Two application to establish fish-frying businesses were refused during the year. One existing business was enlarged and modernised.

Regular inspections of these premises have been made, and in most instances the premises were found to be well maintained. Necessary cleansing was carried out as a result of verbal intimation in three cases.

Cinemas and other Places of Public Entertainment.

By a Ministry of Health Circular issued in 1920, Sanitary Authorities are required to give particular attention to premises holding a licence for music, dancing, etc., special regard being given to sanitary conveniences, dressing rooms, ventilation, and means of escape in case of fire.

There are in the City three Cinemas, and some twelve halls used for dances, concerts, billiards, etc.

A number of visits have been made to these premises, and, generally speaking, they have been well maintained.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.

There are five producers of milk in the City, sixteen dairies—nine of which are attached to cowsheds—and thirty-two retailers of milk.

Frequent visits were made to the cowsheds, dairies and milkshops during the year, and these were found to be in a cleanly and satisfactory condition.

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

Five retailers in the City are licensed to sell "Tuberculin Tested" Milk; five to sell "Accredited" Milk and two to sell "Pasteurised" Milk.

Twenty-four samples of designated milk were submitted for bacteriological examination to the laboratory at the Hill End Mental Hospital.

The following results were obtained:—

		Satisfied the test.	Failed to satisfy the test.	Total.
"Tuberculin Tested"	...	6	—	6
"Accredited"	...	10	2	12
"Pasteurised"	...	6	—	6

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

No special cases of difficulty were experienced during the year in securing compliance with the provisions of the above-named Order.

Ice Cream.

Although registration of premises where ice cream is made or sold is not required in the City, visits have been made to these premises.

There has been a large increase in the number of retailers who obtain their supplies from the wholesale manufacturers, two of whom have branch storage depots in the City, but the number of premises where ice cream is made is decreasing.

Restaurant Kitchens, etc.

During the year inspections were made of the kitchens of Hotels, Restaurants, Cafes, etc., and to premises where "cooked foods" are prepared and sold, and these were found to be in a satisfactory condition.

Structural improvements and enlargements have been made at several of these premises during the year.

Meat and other Foods.

Frequent inspections were made of slaughterhouses, shops and stalls where meat is prepared or sold. In most instances the premises were found to be clean and well kept, periodic limewashing and cleansing being carried out as required.

During the year retailers voluntarily surrendered three 10-lb. tins of Imported Lambs' Livers, 6½-lbs. of Imported Ox Kidneys, one 6-lb. tin of Corned Beef, and 4-lb. of Rock Salmon, for which "condemned notes" were issued by the Department.

Inspection of meat at the time of slaughter is carried out by the Council's Veterinary Officer, Mr. G. Elmes.

Market Stalls.

The Saturday Market was visited regularly and inspections made of the meat, fish and other foods exposed for sale.

Merchandise Marks Act, 1926.

Numerous visits were made to shopkeepers, stallholders, etc., in order to ascertain whether imported goods were properly marked with an "indication of origin" as required by the Act. Attention was drawn to the requirements of the Act, and, when necessary, a printed notice to traders (setting out the principal provisions of the Act) was delivered.

No legal proceedings were instituted during the year.

Bakehouses.

There are 34 bakehouses in the City of which 18 are factories. Two new bakehouses were opened during the year and the use of two discontinued.

Generally speaking the bakehouses are kept in a cleanly condition, and it is seldom that any contraventions are found.

Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928.

Samples taken for Analysis during the Year 1936.

ARTICLE.	No. of Samples obtained.	Results of Analysis.			REMARKS.
		Genuine	Not Genuine	Doubtful	
New Milk	53	49	4	...	Three of the "not genuine" samples contained added water and the fourth was deficient in fat.
Rice	2	2	...	...	
Pepper	1	1	...	...	
Cheese	2	2	...	...	
Margarine	2	2	...	...	
Butter	2	2	...	...	
Dripping	3	3	...	...	
Self Raising Flour ...	3	3	...	...	
Sausages	2	2	...	...	
Smoked Sausage ...	1	1	...	...	
Bacon	1	1	...	..	
Pork Pie	1	1	...	...	
Shredded Suet ...	2	2	...	...	
Flaked Rice	1	1	...	...	
Cornflour	1	1	...	...	
Sago	1	1	...	...	
Tapioca	1	1	...	...	
Dried Mint	2	2	...	...	One sample contained "a trace of arsenic appreciably over the limit recommended by the Royal Commission that should be present in foodstuffs." Acting upon the suggestion of the Public Analyst the vendor was cautioned.
Raspberry Jam ..	1	1	...	...	
Tinned Raspberries ...	1	1	...	...	
Apricot Jam	1	1	...	...	
Ground Almonds ...	1	1	...	...	
Dried Fruits :— Sultanas, Currants, Raisins	4	4	...	...	
Tinned Sild	2	2	...	...	One sample contained "a rather heavy trace of lead." Further sample from same Vendor proved satisfactory.
Aspirin Tablets ...	1	1			
Boric Ointment ...	2	2			
Zinc Ointment ...	2	2	...	...	
Parish's Chemical Food	1	1	...	...	
Tincture of Iodine ...	2	2	...	...	
Castor Oil	1	1	...	...	
Bi-Carbonate of Potash	2	2	...	...	
Totals ...	102	98	4	...	

Food and Drugs Adulteration, etc.

Total Samples. The number of samples of food and drugs submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis during the year was 102. As will be seen from the table showing results of of analysis these were of a varied nature, and included most articles in common use in the household.

Milk Samples. As usual, the greatest number of samples obtained was of milk, one of the most important articles of food. Of the 53 samples taken four were reported against—two being deficient in fat and two containing added water. Legal proceedings were taken against the vendors of three of the samples, and the vendor of the fourth sample was cautioned—the added water in this case being very slight, viz.: 1·8 per cent.

Sample No. 91. Contained added water to the extent of 10·9 per cent. Vendor fined £5 with £1 1s. 0d. costs.

Sample No. 95. Contained added water to the extent of 3·2 per cent. Vendor fined £1 with £1 1s. 0d. costs.

Sample No. 100. Deficient in fat to the extent of 0·26 per cent., being equivalent to a total deficiency of 8·7 per cent. Case dismissed. The vendor successfully pleaded that the milk was in the same condition as supplied by the cow.

Note.—Samples Nos. 95 and 100 were taken from milk in course of delivery to the vendor of sample No. 91.

Preservatives in Food. Seventy-three samples were submitted to the Public Analyst under the Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations, and all were reported as having conformed to the conditions specified therein.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

A. SIMPSON MACARA,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Veterinary Inspector's Report.

To the Mayor and Corporation of the City of St. Alban.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my report for the year 1937, in so far as it relates to the Public Health.

Regular inspection of the cattle exposed for sale in the Cattle Market has been carried out.

Three cows were dealt with under the Tuberculosis Order and were destroyed.

Milk and Dairies Order.—The cows in the City have been examined and found to be in good condition and clean.

No notices for the discontinuation of the sale of milk from cows have been served.

Meat Inspection.—Regular visits have been made to the slaughter-houses of the City, and the approximate weight of meat and offal condemned is as follows:—Beef, 488 stones; Pork, *nil*; veal, *nil*.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient servant,
GEORGE ELMES, F.R.C.V.S.